

NASA Response to the 2014 Senior Review for Astrophysics Operating Missions  
Supplemental decision: Planck  
September 25, 2014

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In the report of the 2014 Senior Review Panel, the panel stated, regarding the U.S. Planck project, that “The SRP recommends the current in-guide budget plus ~25% as well as new funds in FY 2016 to complete the work, however, this is a reduction from the requested overguide.”

Following the 2014 Senior Review, and based on the report of the 2014 Senior Review Panel, the Astrophysics Division determined that there were insufficient funds available within the senior review wedge to provide the recommended augmentation for the U.S. Planck project as well as to continue all of the higher rated missions. At that time in May, the U.S. Planck project was informed that the U.S. Planck project extension is approved through FY 2016 to complete the work. However no additional funds were provided in FY 2015 due to the constrained budget conditions. Reduced additional funding for the extension was provided in FY 2016. See the 2014 NASA Response to Senior Review at <http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/2014-senior-review-operating-missions/>.

The Astrophysics Division requested a revised work plan and an impact statement from the U.S. Planck project based on the reduced additional funding provided. During the annual budget formulation process, the Astrophysics Division considered whether the Mission Operations and Data Analysis (MO&DA) budget for the Division could be increased to accommodate the Senior Review Panel’s recommendation for Planck; such an increase would come at the expense of other parts of the Astrophysics portfolio within a constrained total budget. To evaluate this consideration, the Astrophysics Division Director requested mail-in reviews of the justification for the Planck augmentation request from selected members of the astronomical community.

In September, based on the 2014 Senior Review Report and the ad hoc mail-in reviews, the Astrophysics Division directed the U.S. Planck project to plan toward the augmentation recommended by the Senior Review Panel: a ~25% augmentation (over the baseline plan) in FY 2015 and new funds in FY 2016. The Astrophysics Division is providing this augmentation to fund the U.S. Planck project to complete highest priority work necessary to deliver the final Planck data products in collaboration with the ESA Planck project.

The funding allocations are subject to the appropriation and operating plan process for FY 2015 and FY 2016.